



Cruise Weekly today

CRUISE Weekly today features two pages of all the latest cruise news.

Second VV season

VIRGIN Voyages (VV) will deploy its *Resilient Lady* for a second Australian season in 2024/25, with port schedules confirming the vessel will sail here from 24 Dec to 25 Apr.

Resilient, which was delivered late last year (**CW** 14 Dec 2022), will make her way Down Under for her first season over the upcoming 2023/24 summer, with Virgin confirming an increasing push for local awareness.

This week the brand's VP of Sales, Shane Riley, is in Australia to promote the brand which is represented by Travel the World and newly minted UK-based Sales Manager for Australia/NZ, Mark Lowman.

Aurora launches Antarctica 2024/25

EXCLUSIVE

AURORA Expeditions' new Antarctica 2024/2025 program launches tomorrow, with explorations of the fjords and channels of Chile new for this season.

The program is packed with 25 voyages from nine to 23 days in duration, which in addition to Chile, visits the Antarctic Peninsula, the Falkland Islands, and South Georgia.

In a first for Aurora, new ship *Sylvia Earle* (**CW** 23 Feb) will navigate Chile's maze of waterways, filled with birds and sea life, and surrounded by snow-capped mountains.

The fjords are featured in two itineraries: a 14-day fly/sail Antarctic Explorer voyage, departing 01 Mar 2025, and a 13-day Spirit of Antarctica expedition, departing 13 Mar 2025.

Also new is the 'In Shackleton's

Footsteps' cruise, a 20-day epic adventure, departing 16 Mar 2025, which retraces the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914-1917.

The cruise will venture into the Weddell Sea to Elephant Island, the ice-covered, mountainous island where the Expedition reached temporary haven.

The voyage then continues across the Scotia Sea to South Georgia, from where Shackleton was eventually able to arrange the rescue of his men.

Other highlights include the 13-day Spirit of Antarctica dedicated photographic voyage departing 12 Nov 2024.

Travellers will learn secrets, tips, and tricks through informative lectures from Aurora's professional onboard photographers.

For travellers with less time, or those wishing to limit their

exposure to the Drake Passage, Aurora is offering eight fly/sail or sail/fly combinations in Jan and Feb 2025.

Launching along with the new Antarctic program will be an exclusive earlybird offer, with savings of up to 25% available until sold out.

"We just completed a hugely successful 22/23 Antarctic season and our 23/24 Antarctic season is already selling well with several departures almost at capacity," said APAC Sales Director Steve McLaughlin.

"Our 24/25 Antarctic season is looking like our most adventurous yet."

Chief Marketing Officer Hayley Peacock-Gower added Aurora's season offers a unique mix of itineraries, such as returning favourites, new itineraries, and a collection of special themed expeditions.

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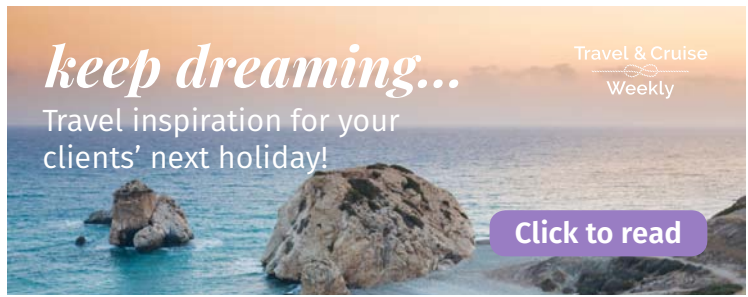
TRAVEL PARTNER INCENTIVE

Travel Advisors will receive a **AU/NZ\$250 David Jones Gift Card** for each new deposited booking made by 31 March 2023.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

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SOME would say it was “bound” to happen, but Holland America Line is set to bring back libraries across its fleet.

President Gus Antorcha confirmed to media during a ship tour of *Nieuw Amsterdam* the number one question from passengers was when the libraries would return.

Holland America is now incrementally reintroducing them aboard its fleet.

Club Med 2 renovated



CLUB Med is setting sail with its revamped luxury yacht, unveiling its renovated *Club Med 2* (pictured).

The modernised, five-masted ship has been made public alongside a collection of new itineraries.

Club Med 2 will offer trips to destinations including the Grenadines, St Barts, the Virgin Islands, Campania, Sicily, Occitania, and the French Riviera.

Architectural firm Sophie Jacqmin has given *Club Med 2* a light, contemporary, and chic look, renovating the ship's 184 staterooms, her bars Le Saint-Barth and Le Cannes, her restaurant, Le Monte-Carlo, and all of her furniture, floors, fabrics, and fittings.

Wellbeing is a priority aboard *Club Med 2*, from byHeberson yoga classes to spa treatments.

Water sports include water-skiing, sailing, snorkelling, paddling, as well as unique experiences such as Wing Surf, the Hobie Mirage Eclipse pedal

paddle board, and a new Tiwal sailing boat.

Among the new itineraries for *Club Med 2* are a new 21-day cruise departing from Nice and ending in Athens, stopping in Turkey, Israel, Egypt, and ending in Greece.

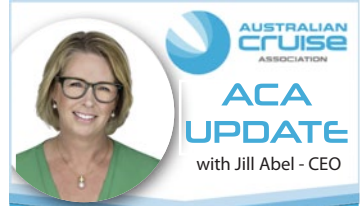
To celebrate the launch, travel advisors who book *Club Med 2* will go into the draw to win a cruise for two.

The incentive period lasts until 30 Jun, and bookings must be deposited to be eligible - for more information, call Club Med on 1800 258 263.

MSC “corrals” funds

MSC Foundation and International Union for Conservation of Nature have announced a partnership to conserve coral reef.

The announcement was made during Monaco Ocean Week, supporting the assessment of the world's coral species.



NT lights up the night

WHILE I am more than keeping busy in Florida at Seatrade Cruise Global with our wonderful delegation, there is lots happening back at home.

The NT deserves a special mention this week as it prepares to launch not one but two exciting new light shows which will be sure to drive excitement for cruise passengers looking for some bucket list pre- and post-cruise experiences.

Thanks to the G'Day Group, the switch will flip on in Apr for renowned British artist, Bruce Munro's new immersive sound and light installation at Kings Canyon Resort.

The 69 sparkling light towers will take guests on an amazing journey as they change colour in response to music coming from within.

This incredible experience can be booked as Sunrise, a Sunset or By Night sessions.

This will be Munro's second installation following the long running Field of Light at Ayers Rock Resort, where owners Voyages Indigenous Tourism Australia will be launching a spectacular new light, laser and drone show in May.

Wintjiri Wiru, meaning “beautiful view out to the horizon”, will tell a chapter of the ancestral Mala story from Kaltukatjara to Mutitjulu.

Each night more than 1,000 drones will take flight for a premium Sunset Dinner experience or a shorter one-hour After Dark session.

The future of the NT is shining brightly in 2023!

Cruise Calendar

Current ports of call in Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY	
<i>Pacific Adventure</i>	30 Mar
<i>Grand Princess</i>	30 Mar
MELBOURNE	
<i>Majestic Princess</i>	30 Mar
PENNESHAW	
<i>Pacific Explorer</i>	30 Mar
AIRLIE BEACH	
<i>Pacific Encounter</i>	30 Mar
CHRISTCHURCH	
<i>Noordam</i>	30 Mar
DUNEDIN	
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	30 Mar
FIORDLAND	
<i>Celebrity Eclipse</i>	29 Mar
WELLINGTON	
<i>Noordam</i>	29 Mar